

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 - 2. (canceled)

1 3. (previously presented) The bone screw according to
2 claim 12 wherein in the second screwthread portion and in the third
3 screwthread portion every 360° several recesses are formed.

1 4. (previously presented) The bone screw according to
2 claim 3 wherein every 360° three recesses are formed.

1 5. (previously presented) The bone screw according to
2 claim 12 wherein each recess extends as a chord toward the screw
3 shank from the cutting edges of the second screwthread portion and
4 of the third screwthread portion and joins in an arc again the
5 respective cutting edge.

6 - 8. (canceled)

1 9. (previously presented) The bone screw according to
2 claim 12 wherein the second screwthread portion comprises three
3 turns.

1 10. (previously presented) The bone screw according to
2 claim 12 wherein lengths of the cutting edges of the turns of the
3 second screwthread portion are constant.

11. (canceled)

1 12. (currently amended) A bone screw comprising:
2 an elongated cylindrical shank having a free end and at
3 an opposite end a screw head;
4 a screwthread extending generally helically along the
5 shank from the free end toward the screw head and itself having
6 a first screwthread portion extending from the free
7 end toward the screw head, comprising three
8 $[[360^\circ]]$ turns, and forming a generally
9 continuous and smooth cutting edge,
10 a second screwthread portion extending from the
11 first portion toward the screw head and formed
12 of a plurality of $[[360^\circ]]$ turns each formed
13 with at least one respective outwardly open
14 recess, the recesses being of increasing
15 angular dimension away from the free end, and
16 a third screwthread portion extending from the
17 second portion to the screw head and formed of
18 a plurality of $[[360^\circ]]$ turns each formed with
19 ~~at least one respective~~ three outwardly open

20 recesses equispaced every 360°, all of the
21 recesses of the third portion being of
22 generally the same angular dimension.

1 13. (previously presented) The bone screw defined in
2 claim 12 wherein the angular dimension of the recesses of the third
3 portion corresponds substantially to the angular dimension of that
4 turn of the second portion closest to the third portion.

1 14. (previously presented) The bone screw defined in
2 claim 12 wherein the recesses of the third screwthread portion have
3 a radial depth that is less than a radial height of the turns of
4 the screwthread portion.

1 15. (previously presented) The bone screw defined in
2 claim 12 wherein the turns of the second and third screwthread
3 portions are each formed with at least three of the respective
4 recesses.